

HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 360 – 194 Putnam Pike
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on **Thursday, October 20, 2011.**

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson;
Treasurer - Sandra Owens; Tax Collector - Kimberly Barber;
Board Members - Louise Michaels, Milton Huston & George Kain
Association Representative – Eric Palmieri, President

Absent: Moderator - Raymond Fogarty, Jr. – excused
Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr. – excused

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:04 pm by Board Member – Louise Michaels, who stood in as Moderator in Ray's absence.

II. - Approval of the minutes from the September 15th meeting.

Moderator Michaels asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the September 15th meeting. If there are no corrections, she would like to call for a motion to accept them.

George made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

III. – Approval of Bills:

A check register of bills to be paid was provided to all board members in their folder. Moderator Michaels asked if there were any comments or questions on these expenses. If not, she would like to call for a motion to accept them. George asked about the trash removal expense. The Chief responded that it was for 2 months, \$75 per month.

Jim made a motion to approve the bills. George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. - Treasurer's Report:

Sandy presented Treasurer's reports for the months of **July & August.**

Beginning balance July 1st was \$259,628.57 and ending balance July 31st was \$287,125.77. July expenses were fairly routine.

George asked about the negative balance of <\$494.00> under Emergency Maintenance – Misc. (G/L 60400). Sandy asked Kim to look into the detail and possibly fix with a Journal Entry to reclassify any miscoded expenses in the September report.

Beginning balance August 1st was \$287,125.77 and ending balance August 31st was \$449,291.21. Revenue was high due to tax income coming in. In August the large insurance bill was paid. The large life insurance bill was on the check register that was just approved, so it will appear in the October Treasurer's Report.

Milt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports, with an amendment to be made in September. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

V. - Tax Collector's Report:

Taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$154,672.34. Ray had asked at the last meeting that Kim have an analysis of taxes receivable last year at this time in comparison to this year. She stated that on a Trial Balance Report run as of October 20th, 2010 the taxes receivable balance was \$212,428.99.

Taxes collected in the month of September were \$123,215.02.

Third party billing was healthy in the month of September, \$8,368.91.

The Tax Sale took place on September 27th. Of the 7 properties listed, 2 did not sell and the district now has 60 days to decide whether or not to exercise the option to take an interest in them. One is the Davis lot on Tarklin Road, Plat: 016 Lot: 065-00A and the other is a landlocked lot off of Phillips Lane billed to Publican Capital LLC, Plat: 019 Lot: 042. Discussion followed regarding the tax sale process and the options of the district.

A motion was made by Jim to opt not to take an interest in the Davis lot. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

The option on the Publican Capital lot was tabled until the next meeting. The board asked that Kim forward the information regarding this parcel to Attorney Mason for his review and recommendation.

Jim made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. - Chief's Report:

In mid September the Chief attended a RIEMA workshop held at the Amica building in Lincoln. This meeting was the kick-off for preparing reimbursement documents to submit FEMA for Tropical Storm Irene. Since then the FEMA field representative has also visited the Harmony Fire District to begin our filing process.

On September 23rd we submitted an AFG grant for Interoperable Communications funding. This was a resubmittal of the same grant we had prepared last year. We have received a letter of support from Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for this grant and we will continue to seek the support of our other elected officials.

Pagnozzi Plumbing has gone through the building and given us a quote to go forward on that portion of our planned building capital improvement items.

The rescue has recently had 2 minor accidents and will be out for repairs for the next week or so.

The Dry Hydrant repair at Baker Brook on Cooper Road, near Long Entry Road, has been completed. Federal funding was received to do this repair. Louise asked how often these dry hydrants are maintained. The Chief replied not that often. Really we just keep an eye on them, back flushing them at least once a year. Some never need attention, but others get a lot of sand wash off from the roads and vegetation growth, so they need more care. The Dry Hydrant at Holiday Acres will be repaired next. Some discussion followed about dry hydrants and how they work.

Yesterday and today Fire Prevention was done at Fogarty and West Gloucester Elementary Schools. In addition, Harmony Fire District will be bringing Halloween safety tip flyers with Glo-Bracelets to the 357 students at Fogarty Elementary School

Town wide training continues with the 3 Gloucester Fire Districts. An example is the town wide Navigational training coming up in a couple of weeks.

Jim asked about progress at the Town Training Site in West Gloucester. The Chief reported that work had stalled due to people not having enough time. He would estimate that it is 99% complete, but there need to be Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) created, especially for safety, before it is officially opened.

Jim also asked about the State Training Site. The Chief said that he was proud to say that in May they had done a dedication of the burn facility and apparatus storage building. Harmony got some very nice mentions at the ceremony. Now that the props are done the next phase of the project will be the construction of the Education Building.

The new Promethean Smartboard is expected within the next 2 weeks.

Former member Milton Aldrich has recently moved out of town, just over the Smithfield line. He did recently have a slip and fall, but he is now doing quite well.

Some thank you cards have been received from patients who were transported by our rescue. The cards were passed around to the board members.

Harmony Fire has also received some coverage in local publications. The Gloucester Honor Guard was photographed at the 9/11 Memorial at St. Eugene's Church. Shown were Captain Randy Brackett and Privates Eric Palmieri and Johnathan Detri. Additionally some photos were included of the Gloucester Firefighters Steak Fry. Featured was Captain David Plante.

George asked what the figure was that the plumber had quote. The Chief said it was approximately \$2,000.

Jim asked about Engine 23. How was it holding up after the repairs were done. The Chief said that the seals are leaking again and the 3rd stage has not been touched. The Chief said that a big issue is the maintenance, but another is that no one can drive it. Only about 4 people on our whole roster know how. Additionally he does not believe it will pass the pump test. Fortunately we haven't had the need to use it. Jim believes it may be time to retire it. Maybe we should take

a look at the cost of insuring it and see if it is worth it. George feels that we need the truck, or a truck like it. The thinks we should look at grants to modify it to pump and do brush fires. It is four wheel drive and can be beneficial. Much discussion followed. The Chief said in the future we should do a cost analysis and put our heads together to come up with a solution that is cost effective. All agreed the subject will require much further discussion.

Milt made a motion to accept the Chief's report. Jim seconded it.
The motion carried unanimously.

VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

The next Association meeting will be held on Monday, November 7th at 7:00 pm.

There will be a small Halloween Party for the district kids Sunday, October 30th from 4-6:00 pm. There will be a Halloween movie shown, piñatas, caramel apples and candy bags for all the kids. The parade truck will be decorated as a "Haunted Fire Truck" to top off the night. The sign will be put out front by the road and flyers will be posted within district, so local district kids can attend. There will be a police detail posted for traffic control.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held the Sunday after Thanksgiving as always, November 27th, 4-6:00 pm. The Chief reported that the committee planning the event this year has been very active and has sought out numerous donations to offset the cost.

New furniture has been bought and installed in the upstairs TV room. A lot of crew members have put a lot of hours in redoing the room, painting and decorating. Eric invented the board members to go on up and take a look at the new room.

George made a motion to accept the Association's report. Milt seconded it.
The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. - Committee Reports:

- a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair
Milt reported that some progress has been made. Kim and the Chief have started to go through the documents Milt has prepared and he is working on the software transferring information between computers. The project is open to any input.
- b. Broadband Work Team – Milton & Stephen Kut, Co-Chairs
There is a meeting coming up on September 27th to continue work on this project.

IX. - Old Business:

- a. Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony.
A letter was received on September 29th from the RIDOT in response to our letter of August 22nd. It addresses all of the items we asked about. As for the repainting of the cross walk, they stated was an installation and would require the approval of the State Traffic Commission. George was very offended by this particular item and thought this was an extreme safety concern for the kids crossing the street to get to the library. He was upset that the local elected officials had not followed through to get this issue corrected, it is not a new installation, the crosswalk had been there for year's, we have photographs to prove it. The Chief suggested he would talk to the

elected officials, at the pleasure of the board, to make sure that they watch for the legislation for the Harmony road project to make sure funds are appropriated.

b. Gloucester Public Safety Commission – “Speed Tables”

The Chief stated that he had spoken with the Gloucester Highway Director and he stated that the speed tables are going to be removed. He doesn't have anything in writing, just a verbal confirmation. The Chief did take a ride up Absalona Hill Road and noticed that the furthest one does have green paint on it, signifying that it is to be ground.

The Chief had also received a phone call from the Secretary of the Gloucester Public Safety Commission, Ruth Cole, stating that she had never received our letter.

Another copy will be sent out.

c. Pathway to Net Zero – Heat & Electricity

No new information available to present, so this item was tabled.

X. - New Business: Addressed throughout report.

XI. - Public Input: No audience.

XII. – Executive Session: None called.

XIII. – Adjournment:

Milt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The October meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **8:00 pm**.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, November 17, 2011** at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly S. Barber".

Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Secretary